Docket No. 1999CON2 (203-2526CON2)

TIFICATE UNDER 37 C.F.R. §1.10

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Virginia 22313-1450 on October 7, 2003.

Date: October 7, 2003

Francesco Sardone

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT

WAYNE C. PERSON

TITLE

SURGICAL INSTRUMENT HOLDER

SERIAL NO.

10/647,950

FILED

August 26, 2003

PARENT

EXAMINER

Jeffrey A. Smith

PARENT

ART UNIT

3732

October 7, 2003

SECOND PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

MAIL STOP: Patent Application

Commissioner for Patents

P.O. Box 1450

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

Preliminary to examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows:

Amendments to the Specification begin on Page 2 of the paper.

Remarks begin on page 4 of the paper.